

COUNTRY Hungary REPORT NO.  

TOPIC Hungarian Division Headquarters and Tank Battalion in Kiskunfeleghaza.

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT prior to 23 June 1951

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 20 September 1951

REFERENCES 25X1

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Division Headquarters.

1. Prior to 23 June 1951, the headquarters of an infantry division with a radio station was located in a large three-story building with a wing and garage, allegedly a former school building, in the center of Kiskunfeleghaza (Y 7/0 03). It was subordinate to a corps headquarters in Kecskemet (Y 6/T 95). \*
2. The division was commanded by a colonel who had a Russian name and spoke Hungarian and Russian fluently. His nickname, used by officers and enlisted men, was Musaka. Officers on the staff of the division headquarters included Major Strahl (fnu), political officer; an adjutant, a signal-communications officer, a chief of classified documents section, and a supply officer.
3. As driver of the regimental headquarters, source learned that the following units belonged to the division: an infantry regiment with postal No 3207 in Szentes (Y 7/0 32); an infantry regiment located about 3 km east-southeast of Kiskunmajsa (Y 6/N 90), on the south side of the road to Kistelek (Y 7/0 00); an infantry regiment in Szeged (Y 7/T 17); an independent tank battalion, an artillery unit, an AT artillery unit, a signal unit, an NCO school and a supply course in Kiskunfeleghaza; and a repair shop company in Kiskunhalas (Y 6/N 70).
4. The artillery unit was located in the new barracks installation in the south-southwestern sector of Kiskunfeleghaza, which had been constructed in day and night shifts during the summer of 1950 and was occupied as early as the fall of 1950. The installation consisted of 1 large four-story building quartering an infantry regiment of the division in Kiskunhalas, 2 two-story buildings and an undetermined number of low storage buildings, ordnance buildings, etc. The billeting area was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. An undetermined number of 122-mm howitzers and 152-mm guns without muzzle brakes were noticed in the billeting area. The 152-mm guns had a protective shield, a counterrecoil mechanism and a recoil brake above and beneath the barrel, and a split-trail carriage, the rear section of which rested on an axle with two pneumatic tires while being moved.

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5. The AT artillery unit had from 250 to 300 men with red service color and was quartered in a two-story former apartment building northeast of the railroad station. In the spring of 1951, source learned that the crews for the operation of from 25 to 30 x 76-mm AT guns stored with the tank battalion had arrived there in early 1951.
6. The signal unit, the NCO school and the supply course were also located in the new barracks installation. A soldier attending the supply course wore dark red service color.
7. The repair shop company consisted of about 25 mechanics and was equipped with 4 lathes, including one with a width of two meters, 1 planing machine, 1 milling machine, 2 self-generating and 1 electric welding machine, and 2 test stands for generators. The company had been transferred from Kiskunfelegyhaza to Kiskunhalas in May 1951. Its former location north of Kiskunfelegyhaza was still guarded by troops.

#### Independent Tank Battalion.

8. Prior to December 1950, the independent tank battalion was subordinate to the infantry division stationed in Kiskunfelegyhaza. Officers at the battalion headquarters included a captain who was the commanding officer, a junior lieutenant who was the political officer, and a supply officer. The tank battalion was quartered northeast of the railroad station, in a barracks installation which consisted of 1 two-story barracks building, about 110 x 12 meters; a lean-to garage, about 10 x 20 meters; 1 low work shop and storage building; 1 tank shed without side walls, about 20 x 10 meters; 1 low tank garage, about 20 meters square; 1 low storage shed for AT guns, SP guns and ammunition, about 20 x 15 meters; 1 open storage shed for AT guns, about 20 x 10 meters; and 1 garage for SP guns, about 15 x 10 meters. Attached to the battalion was an SP artillery battalion, subordinate to the commanding officer of the tank battalion. The personnel of the battalion were members of the 1928 through 1930 classes.
9. The tank battalion consisted of a headquarters and five identically organized companies with a total strength of 200 to 300 men. The battalion was equipped with 30 T-34/85 tanks, 4 of which were assigned to each of the five companies; the remaining 10 tanks were "frozen" and regularly serviced to keep them ready for use. Each company had from 50 to 60 men and was organized into a company headquarters and three platoons of two sections each. The companies were commanded by lieutenants or junior lieutenants, and the platoons by NCOs. The headquarters and the third platoon of each company were not equipped with tanks. The soldiers of the battalion were armed with Soviet 7.62-mm pistols with 7-round clip magazines. No other small arms were noticed.
10. The SP artillery battalion, which had postal No 3234, had 60 to 70 men and was organized into a headquarters and 3 identical companies. The battalion, which had its own commanding officer, was equipped with 15 SP guns, 12 of which were assigned to the companies and 3 were kept in reserve. The companies averaged about 20 men and were organized into 2 platoons each. Pistols of 7.62 mm were the only small arms noticed by source. The battalion had received five SP guns each from the infantry regiments in Szentes, Kiskunmajsa and Szeged. The SP guns had 6 bogie wheels, 3 track-supporting rollers, 1 front drive wheel, 1 rear idler wheel and a track, about 35 cm wide. The body on the rear section of the vehicle opened toward the top. The front armor was about 22 mm and the side armor from 12 to 15 mm. The 76.2-mm gun had a muzzle brake with four baffles. The SP gun was driven by two 6-cylinder M18 gasoline motors. It had a crew of four men and an inside loop antenna. \*\*
11. The vehicles of the battalion included 33 weapon carriers and from 3 to 6 Csepel trucks. Their assignment to the tank battalion and the SP artillery battalion was not determined.

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12. The soldiers of the two units were trained at platoon level. In addition, radio operators', drivers', gunners', technical, and tactical training was held. Source did not hear anything about firing practices. Political indoctrination was given six hours a week.
13. From 25 to 30 x 76-mm AT guns were sheltered and serviced in the storage building of the barracks installation. The guns, which were not used for training, had a pear-shaped muzzle brake with 4 longitudinal baffles, three-section protective shield, a split-trail carriage with 2 disk wheels mounting pneumatic tires. The guns were towed by weapon carriers. \*\*\*

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Comment. The description applies to SU-76 SP gun.

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Comment. Although no sufficient information from Kiskunfelegyhaza is applicable for collation, the statements by source are given credence. They indicate that a Hungarian Infantry division of to-day has 3 infantry regiments, 1 artillery regiment, 1 tank battalion, 1 AT artillery battalion and 1 signal company or battalion.

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